



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

October 15, 2001

Vol. 01, No. 29

Waiting on the Weather

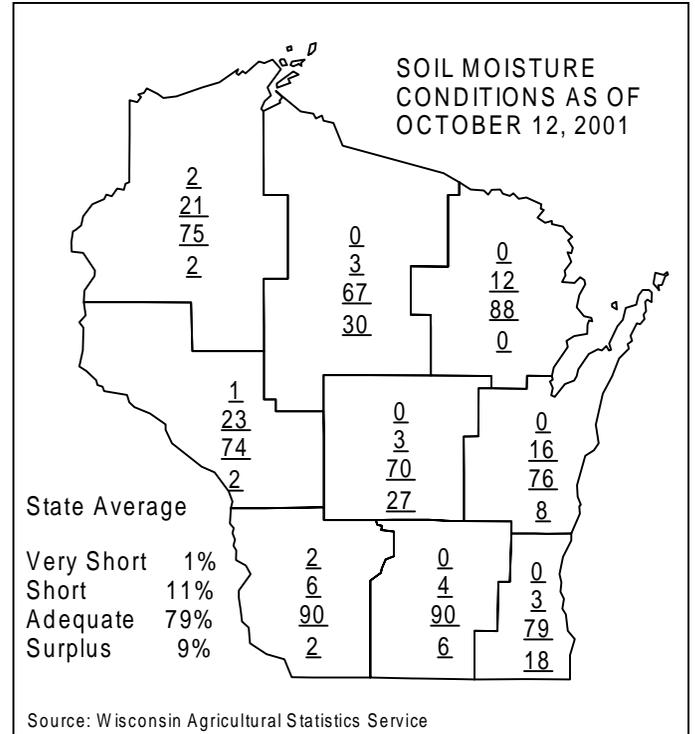
Crop harvest and fall tillage slowly moved forward last week when weather permitted. Last week's rain and normal temperatures resulted in plant moisture remaining steady, slowing corn and soybean harvest. Farmers are concerned about low test weights and high drying costs this fall. The soil moisture was reported 1% very short, 11% short, 79% adequate, and 9% surplus. There were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn maturity reached 70% complete, compared to 95% last year, and 89% for the 5-year average. Corn harvested for silage was 85% complete, compared to 96% last year, and 90% for the 5-year average. Corn harvested for grain was 10% complete, compared to 27% last year, and 23% for the 5-year average. Silage yields were reported below average to average, statewide. Silage quality was variable depending on field conditions during the growing season.

Soybeans dropping leaves rose to 92%, behind both last year's 97%, and the 5-year average of 96%. Soybean harvest reached 30%, compared to 67% last year, and 57% for the 5-year average. Southern Wisconsin farmers reported soybean yields down from last year.

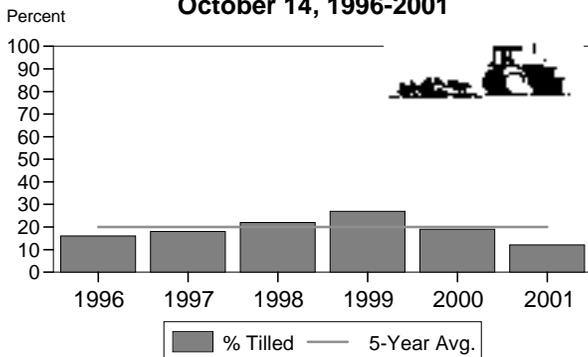
Fourth cutting **alfalfa** harvest reached 55% complete this year, behind last year's 79%. A Grant County farmer reported fifth crop alfalfa was harvested, although not very tall.

Fall tillage began last week with 12% complete, compared to 19% last year, and 20% for the 5-year average. **Carrot** harvest in Portage County was reported as a good crop, near harvest completion. Dark red **kidney bean** yields were reported variable by a Dunn County reporter. A Sauk County farmer reported very good **apple** and **pumpkin** crops.

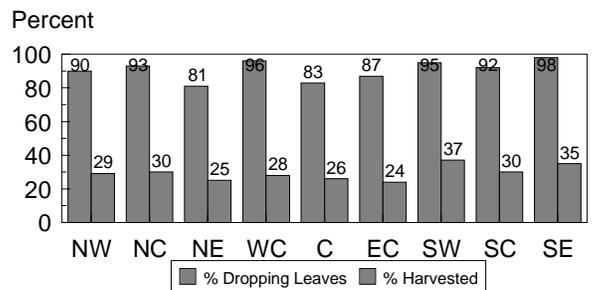


| Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 12, 2001 | | | | | |
|--|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Item | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| | Percent | | | | |
| Pasture | 2 | 13 | 34 | 47 | 4 |
| Corn | 2 | 8 | 25 | 49 | 16 |
| Soybean | 2 | 7 | 22 | 48 | 21 |

FALL TILLAGE COMPLETED Yearly Averages for Wisconsin October 14, 1996-2001



Soybean Progress in Wisconsin By District, October 14, 2001



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 14, 2001

| Crop and percent of acreage | District average | | | | | | | | | State average | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| | NW | NC | NE | WC | C | EC | SW | SC | SE | This year | Last year | 5-year average |
| Corn mature | 58 | 62 | 49 | 69 | 65 | 63 | 76 | 80 | 85 | 70 | 95 | 89 |
| Corn hvstd. for silage | 86 | 75 | 80 | 91 | 85 | 79 | 94 | 89 | 90 | 85 | 96 | 90 |
| Corn hvstd. for grain | 5 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 27 | 23 |
| Soybean dropping leaves | 90 | 93 | 81 | 96 | 83 | 87 | 95 | 92 | 98 | 92 | 97 | 96 |
| Soybean harvested | 29 | 30 | 25 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 37 | 30 | 35 | 30 | 67 | 57 |
| 4th crop hay harvested | 54 | 59 | 53 | 54 | 53 | 58 | 55 | 57 | 54 | 55 | 79 | n.a. |
| Fall tillage | 15 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 25 | 23 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 19 | 20 |

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Warm, dry conditions are allowing fall tillage to progress. Some apple crops yet to be picked.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Some fall fieldwork is starting. High moisture corn is starting to come off.

ONEIDA-L.O.: All Potatoes have been dug. Corn cobs filled out, but small, drying down fast.

PRICE-A.B.: No killing frost yet. Some manure hauling and plowing being done. Hunting season is on us, so who knows how much will get done.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Growing season is over with hard frost this week. Corn silage harvest mostly complete. Just a few beans have been combined and no high moisture corn ready yet.

DUNN-J.F.: Soybean harvest continues. Yields are variable depending on rainfall received. Growers report yield ranges of 25-55 bushels per acre. Dark red kidney bean yields variable as well, 15-20 hundredweight per acre are being reported. One dairyman reported that his corn silage yield exceeded last year's. Corn moistures vary. Some corn at 22 percent moisture all the way up to 40 percent.

PIERCE-C.T.: Corn is at about 25 percent and seems slow to dry down.

TREMPEALEAU-H.T.: Haven't seen any high moisture corn being harvested. Received 1.40 inches of rain on Tuesday afternoon and evening.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Severe frost killed corn and soybeans along with all garden crops. Alfalfa still alright, but the cool days have slowed regrowth. One inch of rain on Thursday plus, warmer weather will improve hay and pasture conditions. Late-planted corn is 50 percent moisture and some has just completed denting. Farmers are faced with decisions on when to harvest for silage, or leave in field until it dries down. Farmers are concerned about drying cost and lower test weight. Soybean yields range from 20-40 bushel per acre, down by 40-60 percent from last two years.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Potato harvest finishing up. Corn and soybean harvest about to get underway. Got down to 20 degrees Sunday morning, but not long enough to call it a true killing frost.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Killing frost on Sunday morning. Temperature got down to 18 degrees in this area. A good share of the soybeans have been harvested. Not much corn harvested for grain in this area yet. Most of the hay has been harvested.

BROWN-D.S.: Soybean yields seem to be down, 10-15 bushels from last year. Corn silage is off by 35-40 percent on yields.

MANITOWOC-R.B.: Really hard frost on Saturday. Killed all vegetables and flowers susceptible to frost. Entire corn plant killed. All corn had hanging cobs next day! Winter wheat mostly planted. Corn silage going fast as possible after the frost. New seeding alfalfa under oats the best and cleanest ever; it needs harvesting. Some fields made fourth crop alfalfa, won't be much, but feed is in short supply. Very late-planted corn making good silage, but is short due to dry weather, not enough tonnage per acre. High moisture corn is ready for concrete silos.

GRANT-G.C.: Most beans and corn were safe before frost came. Some fifth crop hay has been harvested; not very tall. Hay was cut one day and packed in bunkers the next morning. Rumors of corn combined under 20 percent moisture.

SAUK-D.H.: Very good apple and pumpkin crop.

VERNON-K.L.: Quality of corn silage is excellent. Tonnage is down 10 to 15 percent. Hard frost on Friday and Saturday afternoon. Soybean yields down 8-15 bushels per acre. Corn still wet. High moisture corn just starting.

DANE-D.R.: Crop harvest and fall tillage moving forward as weather will permit. Yields appear down slightly.

JEFFERSON-E.B.: High moisture corn well underway. Just starting shelling and drying. With a few good combining days next week, the soybeans should be just about done.

RACINE-L.F.: Soybeans yields are running 40-60 bushels per acre, pleasant surprise after the summer we had. The few who are harvesting corn say it's not as bad as we thought!

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Corn silage very good quality. Corn and beans look better than a month ago.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 14, 2001

| City | Temperature | | | | | | Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/ | | Precipitation | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Avg. max. | Avg. min. | High max. | Low min. | Avg. | Avg dep. from normal* | Mar. 1 to Sept. 29 | Mar. 1 to Sept. 29 normal * | Last week | Since Sept. 1 | Sept. 1 dep. from normal* | Year to date |
| Eau Claire | 63 | 40 | 68 | 22 | 52 | 52 | 2,641 | 2,425 | 1.73 | 4.47 | -0.60 | 32.46 |
| Green Bay | 60 | 39 | 66 | 21 | 50 | 50 | 2,519 | 2,289 | 0.93 | 3.34 | -1.17 | 24.00 |
| La Crosse | 63 | 42 | 67 | 26 | 52 | 52 | 2,849 | 2,731 | 1.16 | 6.74 | 1.90 | 29.19 |
| Madison | 62 | 44 | 69 | 23 | 53 | 53 | 2,682 | 2,686 | 0.48 | 6.01 | 1.66 | 33.63 |
| Milwaukee | 62 | 48 | 70 | 29 | 55 | 55 | 2,677 | n.a. | 1.88 | 6.63 | 2.19 | 32.19 |

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.